GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1859
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Price Rise
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of prices of essential commodities viz. foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and vegetables during the last three years, year-wise;
(b) whether the price of essential commodities viz. foodgrains, pulses, edible oils, sugar, milk and vegetables is rising in the country and affecting common people, if so, the details thereof including the factors causing the price rise and the extent of the price rise during the last year;
(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to contain the rising food prices;
(d) whether the Government is considering to make available wheat, onion and oil etc. in retail stores, throughout the country to contain price rise and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) : Details of prices of essential commodities during the last three years are at Annexure I.
(b) : Over the last year, prices of tur, urad, moong and masoor in pulses; potato, onion and tomato in vegetables; sunflower oil in edible oils have declined while prices of gram dal in pulses; palm oil, groundnut oil, Vanaspati, soya oil and mustard oil in edible oil; rice in cereals and sugar has increased. Prices of other commodities have either remained stable or rose marginally.

Rise in the prices of essential food items are due to various factors such as shortfall in production, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities, increase in demand because of rise in population and per capita income and change in food habits. In addition, speculation, cartelization, black-marketing/hoarding also put pressure on prices.

(c) : From time to time, Government takes various steps to contain rise in prices of essential food items. Details are at Annexure II.

(d) & (e) : No madam. Government is providing highly subsidized foodgrains at ? 1/2/3 per kg. for coarse grains/wheat/rice under National Food Security Act,2013, covering two third of the population of the country.
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